THE GALAXY.

EARL RUSSELL-THE MISSIONARY'S DAUGHTER-NEOLOGISM-FRENCH PEOPLE.

Mr. Justin McCarthy opens the January numher of The Galaxy with a sketch in his usual conversa-tional style of Earl Rassell, whomine calls a wreck, lagging superfluous on the political stage. The old age which he staved off so long has come down upon him suddenly with a crash, and from the painful picture of feeble and wearisone eld man, it is a relief to turn to the Lord John Russell who sat in youth at the feet of Fox; who knew Metternich and Talley rand, Moore and Byron, and had even tarked to great Napoleon in little Elba. Mr. Mc-Carthy credits him with tastes for things fine and high, for art, literature, philosophy, history, politics, but not with great capacity for culture in most of these fields. He was experimental, but he was also appreclarive of what was truly great in genius. Some of his friends regarded the young cadet of a noble family, as a being of dazzling promise, but his "Essay on the History of the English Government and Constitution," and his tragedy of "Don Carlos" did not get a success which was anything than a compliment to the author's noble birth. When he entered public life he was very young and a devoted adherent of the Whig party. He made mo tion after motion in the House of Commons in favor of form, but not until he was nearly 40 years old did he have a position and triumphant success. It was in 1831 that he prepared and proposed the Reform Bill, which raised up, to compete with the power of the peer in Parliament, the power of the middle classes. It prevented a revolution and made of Lord John a hero, who, cold, repellant, and formal, had snothing of the popular darling about him. But he was never liked in the lower House, where he seemed to respect only two things,

buch birth and great inteliect.

Lord John was said to be miserably parsimonions. He seemed only a formal, bloodiess, and ashy sort of little man. He is a very little man, and he has or had a way of folding his arms and expanding his chest and deepening his voice and, in fact, trying to swell himself into physical dignity, which oddiy but inevitably reminded one of the frog trying to rival the ex. He always watched with keen eyes for any that in the reasoning or inconsistency in the statement of an adversary, and he made eruel work with anything of the kind. He was fluent and ready—a kind of slow fluency, a sort of forced readiness; but however achieved, the result was there in a capacity to reply on the spur of the moment, and to speak for as long a time as was necessary. His language was clear, precise, and expressive; there was a cold emphasis about it which impressed it on the Histener's attention like the steady dropping of chilly water. Russell had a broad and general knowledge of history, and was sure to remember semething which his antagemphasis about it which impressed it on the listeau's attention like the steady dropping of chilly water. Russeli has a broad and general knowledge of history, and was sure to remember something which his antagonist had torgotten or did not know, and which came in with unexpected and damaging effect as an argument or illustration. He brought everything to the test of a cold, sharp intelligence, and had no pity for the entimaliasm or the crotchets of anybody. He had the great advantage ever noney of his cotemporaries that he anderstood the spirit of politics to be a principle and their guidance a scene. Thus he always seemed to speak from a higher intellectual platform than Palmerston or han Deptoy, and even a crotchet expounded by him had an appearance of coim dignity and wisdom. He often said sharp and bitter things in debate. He had not a glean of harbor, but he had a sort of glittering and force sarcasm, that seemed like a pointed sciel. His career displays almost as strange a series, of contradictions or paradoxes as that which Macadily finds in the career of Pitt. Russeli, who began life with a reputation for a heat of temperament worthy of Achilles, has for more than ball his career been regarded as a fright and bloodless politician. He started as a friend and champlón of the political emanospation of the Lish Catholics and for more than 20 years no man has been so universally defested as he is among Irish Catholics. He was for a long time looked up to as the fiery and uncompremising leader of the Reform party; and he hasbeen for a long time looked up to as the fiery and uncompremising leader of the Reform party; and he hasbeen for a long time looked down upon by hearly all reformers as utterly behind the time, feeble, and timid. An earnest tiring of America during her civil war than was given by the worst of her Tory enemies. One of the strongest purposes of his political career was to aid in the emancipation of the Raians from the Austrians; and in the end, when the Danes had, in great part by their own whose expectations when compelled to disappoint,

Mr. J. W. De Forest's story of "The Wethnel Affair" is continued. In this installment, the missionary's little daughter, loved by the young worldling, finds in the home of the old New-England Judge a most punctual-pious, and selemn atmosphere. It is a house on whose dressing-tables assemble, as Mr. De Forest tells us, little congregations of tracts, with a Bible officiating as clergyman and a hymn-book as chorister; where, if anybody is sleepy and dilatory o' mornings, the maid servant puts her mouth to the key-hole and momotonously and by express order of her master
admonishes the sinner to go to the ant and
consider her ways and be wise; and where the daily
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consider her ways and be wi nners are absorbed by the light of fervent and sincere theological disquisitions. The quaint, formal little Puri tan likes it all, and keeps-the pretty puss !- her irreligious young hero in her gentle heart and fresh imagination, and longs for his coming to the nest of theology. Such is woman-even when she is the child of missionaries and devoted to heathen instruction.

J. Durand, in talking of " French Scenes, Customs, and Characters," gives several pleasant pictures of French households, which go to prove that their lives are not ple think them. For the wickedness of Paris, the Parisians assert that foreigners are responsible, and Mr Durand echoes the assertion. Péculation of officials in politicals life is very rare; the weakness of the French is not gain. Mr. R. G. White comes back once more to The Galaxy and "Language." He defends neologism, and says that there is nothing weaker than that purism which shrinks from a word or phrase merely because it is new. He declares that it is reason and not the endnence of writers which makes their grammar authoritative; and that writers are to be judged by their general practice and not by the occasional lapses to which they are subject. Nor is continuous use by writers of repute and people of guiture neces, sary to the recognition of a word or a phrase as good English. Of the word disprisacied in Mr. Lowell's "Cathedral" which occasioned so many sneers, Mr. White; says that it is good English-but no because it came from Mr. Lowell's pen. It is English because its meaning is clear and its formation normal, and would be conceded, English, the writer thinks, had it been introduced in the reporting columns of a penny newspaper, instead of in a poem wherein the soul is "By througs of strangers undisprivacied." Mr. White concludes thus:

Mr. White concludes thus:

If, then, novely is not a tenable ground of objection to a word or a phrase, and long usage is not in itself full justification, if the example of writers eminent for the instruction or the picasure they give is not authoritative when they disregard reason and analogy, what is the rule or standard by which language may be tested, and the appeal to which is final! The question is answered in the putting of it. There is no such absolute rule. Usage gives immunity to use; but the court that pronounces judgment upon language is a mixed commission of the common and the critical, before whom precedent and good usage have presumptive authority, on the condition that they can bear the test of criticism, that is, of reason, to which they are compelled frequently to give way.

Mrs. Edwards's story of "The Vagabond Heroine" is

Mrs. Edwards's story of "The Vagaboud Heroine" is begun. The curtain rolls up at Belinda O'Shea, pretty, graceful, hoydenish, undisciplined, with stockings all oles, a fundness for maccaroons, and a vagrant smattering of accomplishments. This young woman is considering the demands of two hapless beings her little hand, and whether she shall go as Mrs. Jones to "a drawing-room like one's life, oppressively stiff and uninteresting, dining-room to match husband to match, everthing to match!" or as Senora de Sebullos to Spain, with a little wine merchant who is uninteresting like his rival pretender, is picture-sque and less vulgar. How this important question is decided and who the little girl marries in the end, are of course the points of the story, as of all women's stories. Lady Blanche Murphy begins a series of "Wanderings" in Europe, and gossips pleasantly of us social experiences in Italy. Among the poems

THE VEILED MUSE.
Spirit of Beauty, haunt me not!
Thou bring'st insufferable pain:
Thou who art gone, be thou forgot,
Nor rise to vex my rest again,
Either with memories sadly sweet,
Or hopes foredoomed to dull defeat.

Ah, come no more in whispering leaves, Or peaceful grass, or breath of flowers ! Enough this baffled spirit grieves, Remembering thee and rosy hours. Syare it the throbs of hope and fear— The cruel sense that thou art near.

The passion dies within my soul;
The music dies within my brain;
Save where there comes a funcral toll,
A low, lamenting, sad refrain,
An echo from that shrine of rong
Long darkened and descrited long.

In what was fair I once had part—
But all fair things are now my shame.
Their nameless beauty hurts my heart,
Because I cannot speak its name!
Ultered, 'twould make that heart rejoice—
But oh, I cannot give it voice!

Once in these veins the blood was warm!
With ardent joy this heart beat high;
And the great gales that proudly storm
The loftiest rampart of the sky
Were not more daring, derce, and strong
Than this now silent soul of song. But, wasted now that youth of gold,
Tarough mortal being's battered sieve!
And he to die may well be bold,
Who is not beld enough to hye—
In haunted silence of disgrace.
Where hushed thy voice and vailed thy face.

Ah, come no more, to do me wrong, In twilight hours of tender dream, When this worn nature seems less strong Than evening mist that shrouds the stream, Though love be dead, at least retain me pity for thy lover's pain:

And don't forget, though all be past, That thou and I clasped hands in youth; I saw thee close, I held thee fast, Pincked Risses from thy rosy mouth, Learning that bilss which now I weep— The love I won but could not keep.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

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